

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02483 211106Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123858 211110Z /15

O 211020Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6386

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2483

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT: KAUNDA AGREES TO CALL
FRONT LINE MEETING

REF: LUSAKA 2475

1. AS A RESULT OF MWALE'S DISCUSSION WITH KAUNDA ABOUT
OUR HOPES FOR SCHEDULING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A FRONTLINE
MEETING(REFTEL) THE PRESIDENT ASKED UK HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES
AND ME TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM SUNDAY MORNING.
HE ALSO ASKED TO BE BRIEFED ON NAMIBIA BY THE LOCAL
CONTACT GROUP. THIS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FOREIGN
MINISTER MWALE AT THE SAME TIME. PRESENT WITH KAUNDA
WERE NINE OTHER ZAMBIANS: UNIP SECRETARY GENERAL ZULU,
PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA, FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE,
DOMINIC MULAISHO AND PUNABANTU OF STATE HOUSE,
AND FOUR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

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2. KAUNDA THANKED MILES FOR THE CALLAGHAN LETTER AND
SAID THAT FROM IT AND THE COMMUNICATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH
NYERERE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE KEY PROBLEM OF THE ARMED
FORCES HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED. WE CAN NOW BEGIN TO TALK
ABOUT A SETTLEMENT SERIOUSLY, HE SAID. ALTHOUGH SMITH
AND THOSE OF HIS PERSUASION WOULD RETAIN CONSIDERABLE

INFLUENCE THROUGH THEIR CONTROL OF THE RHODESIAN ADMINISTRATION) AND THEIR ECONOMIC POWER, AND EVEN THROUGH THE CHURCHES, THE IMPORTANT POINT WAS THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE REPLACED BY ZIPA. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE HAD BEEN REMOVED AND OTHER THINGS WOULD BE EASIER. AS A RESULT OF THIS POINT HAVING BEEN MADE PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID "WE HAVE NOW BEGUN TO SEE HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE".

3. KAUNDA SAID HE COULD AGREE THAT THE POLICE WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INTERIM PERIOD PROVIDED THAT A TIGHT SCHREENING HAD TAKEN PLACE, A SCREENING WHICH INVOLVED POLITICAL CONSIDERATION. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE A UN OR COMMONWEALTH FORCE HELP MAINTAIN ORDER. MILES, WHO HAD BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE NYERERE PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT SATURDAY THAT RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES WOULD BE DISBANDED AND LAW AND ORDER TURNED OVER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WITHOUT ANY TIMING METHOD, TRIED TO PRESS KAUNDA TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF RHODESIAN FORCES DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD. KAUNDA BRUSHED THE POINT ASIDE, SAYING THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE LIBERATION FORCES WOULD TAKE OVER HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. THE DETAILS COULD BE LOOKED AT LATER.

4. KAUNDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH NYERERE TO CALL A MEETING OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT HIS COLLEAGUES THIS MORNING AND
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AT ONE POINT WAS CALLED OUT OF THE ROOM TO TALK TO ONE OF THEM. HE PROPOSED THAT THE 26TH OF AUGUST BE SET ASIDE FOR TALKS AMONG THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND THAT THEY MEET WITH OWEN AND YOUNG ON THE 27TH. I SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WAS FOR OWEN AND YOUNG TO PRESENT OUR PROPOSAL IN ITS ENTIRETY AND DETAIL AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THEIR PRESENTATION TO COME EARLIER IN THE DISCUSSIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT DISCUSS THE TIMING WITH ANDY YOUNG AND BRITISH MINISTER JUDD IN LAGOS. KAUNDA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE NO RECOGNITION OR CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER TO SMITHS ELECTION. I SAID WE FULLY AGREED AND FOR THIS REASON ARE ANXIOUS THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FRONTLINE MEETING WITH OWEN AND YOUNG BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY TODAY, EVEN IF THE DETAILS WERE LEFT UNTIL LATER. KAUNDA SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS UNTIL HE HAD CONSULTED HIS COLLEAGUES BUT THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD COME FROM LUSAKA (MILES HAD SUGGESTED LAGOS) AFTER THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE.

5. . KAUNDA CLOSED THE MEETING SAYING HE WAS VERY

HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE.

6. COMMENT: THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FRONTLINE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE TO HAVE THE MEETING WITH OWEN AND YOUNG COME FIRST, FOLLOWED BY A FRONTLINE MEETING AND THEN A WRAP-UP JOINT MEETING. THERE IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE WAY ARRANGZMENTS ARE MADE AND NO HARD AND FAST SCHEDULING WILL BE DONE AHEAD OF TIME. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS HERE IN LUSAKA I SUGGESTED THIS PROCEDURE.
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA02483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0102
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770839/aaaabhct.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: b781fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 2475
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1534094
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT: KAUNDA AGREES TO CALL FRONT LINE MEETING
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, ZA, BC, TZ, MZ, AO
To: STATE LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b781fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009